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**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN DOCKET NO. AB 55 713X

December 1, 2011

ABANDONMENT TYPE

The time for comments on the Environmental Assessment (EA) has expired in this:

(X) Notice of Exemption () Petition for Exemption () Regulated Abandonment

() **NO NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED**

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OEA served an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proceeding on November 15, 2011, for public review and comment. In the EA, OEA recommended following 2 environmental conditions:

1. **CSX Transportation, Inc., shall consult with the National Geodetic Survey at least 90 days prior to the beginning of salvage activities that will disturb or destroy any geodetic station markers.**
2. **CSX Transportation, Inc., shall consult with Alabama Department of Transportation regarding salvaging and abandonment procedures prior to commencement of any salvage activities.**

In a letter dated November 17, 2011, the Monroe County Commission requests that the Board impose a Public Use Condition as well as a Certificate or Notice of Interim Trail use. OEA notes that CSX states that the right-of-way may not be suitable for other public purposes because it may be subject to reversionary interests that may affect transfer of title for other than rail purposes.

OEA also corrects an error to the EA. OEA correctly noted on page 1 that the railroad does not believe that the Line is appropriate for other public purposes and that the Line may be subject to reversionary interests. However, on page 5, OEA neglected to include the word 'not' and stated that the right-of-way may be suitable for other public use.

Conclusions

OEA believes that the proposed action will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

The EA comment period has ended. Accordingly, OEA recommends the previously recommended 2 conditions should be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority.

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